

February 13, 2008

TO: Susan White, Mining Program Coordinator

FROM: Paul Baker, Reclamation Biologist

SUBJECT: Initial Review, Miracle Rock Mining, Rockland Mine, M0150040, Task , Emery County, Utah

I have conducted a review of the referenced plan in an attempt to identify items that are missing from the plan and rules that have not been addressed. This is not a technical review, and there are likely to be technical issues within the plan that are not addressed here. Subjective judgment was used in identifying the missing items; others would likely have differing views.

Based on this review, there are just two items missing:

R647-4-106.4 and -106.10

The plan does not include an estimate of the annual tonnage of waste material to be mined.

R647-4-113 Surety

The plan does not include a reclamation cost estimate. Rather, the plan says, "After receiving notification that the notice of intention has been approved, the Rockland Mine commits to providing to the Division a detailed bond estimate." The rules indicate that the Division is to calculate the surety as part of its review but that the operator may also provide a surety estimate. Therefore, it is questionable whether the plan should be ruled incomplete when the surety estimate is missing.

D:\IR-02132008-Rockland.doc

- What is Uintah county's obligation to go to Board for bonding?
- Look at engineering and Beth's bond - Dennis may want to submit his own surety calculation.
- Draft cover letter

The NOI does not outline a plan to remove and store suitable topsoil material. There is correspondence from JBR providing clarification and elaboration that no topsoil will be salvaged, however more detail is required. The June 2007 submittal explains that topsoil is not readily available due to steep slopes, but there is not a topography map showing the location substantiating this claim. Furthermore, a conflict is introduced on page 30 of the submittal, which indicates signs will be placed at 'topsoil piles' on the east bench, which indicates topsoil is salvaged. More clarification is needed. (BE) Paul please look at this comment, is this already addressed in your previous comments? Can we combine them?

106.5 Existing soil types, location, amount

Please show the locations of soil stockpiles on a map. Please also include volume estimates for the stockpiles. (PBB)

In addition to above comment, provide overall slope dimensions. (BE)

Please include a map showing where the two different soil types are located. (PBB)

The plan needs to contain information about the chemical and physical nature of undisturbed soil and of material in areas that are previously disturbed. Would the materials in previously disturbed areas be suitable as growth media? (PBB)

106.6 Plan for protecting & redepositing soils

The plan says (Section 4.6) there are approximately 12 acres of relatively undisturbed ground in the area of proposed new mining but that no topsoil will be salvaged from this area because of steep slopes.

How steep are the slopes? If topsoil is not to be salvaged from some areas, the plan needs to include a variance request giving justification for the variance and showing what alternate methods will be used. (PBB)

The only areas where the operator intends to use any soil are on the safety berm and to reclaim the road on the east side of the property.

Please include acreage figures for the berm and road. How much soil is needed to reclaim these facilities? (PBB)

According to the plan, the topsoil piles are vegetated with volunteer species. Are these species weeds? If so, efforts need to be made to establish desirable perennial species. (PBB)